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29 April 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Operations School

SUBJECT : A Look at the EUR Ops Course

1. I'm not surprised that the DTR has noted the student objections to the EUR Course expressed in their critiques. It is not news to us. The critique written by GS-15) expresses in a concise manner how it fails to be of value. He also raises the fundamental question, "should there be an EUR Ops Course at all."

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2. The tradecraft portion of the course has always been superficial. In tradecraft exercises in which students are pitted against students the result is fun and games, not training. The TSD portion of the course is also superficial, teaching little and boring to many.

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3. The first week of the course has the potential of being useful and relevant to EUR needs, provided EUR officers addressed themselves to operational problems rather than put on the easier-to-do travelogue of their country/area. Of course, it may be that in some EUR countries there are no operations worthy of discussion, but that would be embarrassing to admit in this course. There are some common denominators a discussion of which is valid for all EUR officers. Here, I am thinking about the NOC panel (which I put into the course last year) and the Reports Review, conducted by Both topics have been well received by the more discriminating EUR officer.

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4. Since we are aware of dog in the manger attitude toward "his" course, I propose the drastic move that OTR disassociate itself from the course and permit EUR to conduct its own in-house operational seminars as sees fit. In the meantime we should continue to try to get EUR officers into AOC.

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